

# Kristy's Fast Etching Tips

**Kristy is our new generation sand blaster and is particularly good at quality assured work and getting jobs done fast. She's a think on your feet kinda girl and I asked to outline some speed tips. This is what she came up with.**

## **Resist Border Marks**

Don't put washed out borders on your resist to frame the resist cut out and as a guide for lining up the resist so that it is applied straight. Just put a base line on resist. This saves having to tape up the resist edges to cover the washed out lines. So the idea is to make the resist a little bigger so that the resist itself folds around the edges of the trophy and the base line, which will need to be taped over when you cover the base, is what you use to line up the straightness of the resist. As for getting the image centred on the trophy the eyes are reliable enough to get this right and with very little practice, it becomes second nature. Besides with SR3000 you can re-position easily if you do get it off centre. Doing this will save you lots of tape up time to get your jobs done faster.



## **Avoid very fine lines in artwork.**

SR3000 can produce very fine lines up to 0.3mm and in general it all washes out fine and etches well. However the finer the line the more finicky it will be and in most cases those fine lines don't look so great transposed onto glass as they get harder to see. So thickening up your art lines will make the washout and etching process faster and will in most cases actually look better on the glass. If you are etching glassware and want to use a font like Times New Roman, the finer parts of the font will be harder to read. It is recommended that you use a similar font such as Century School Book which has thicker lines and will look better etched.

## **Roll back resist to remove the clear carrier**

Sometimes the clear carry sheet gets a bit fiddly to remove but if you roll back the resist just a little bit on one corner before applying the resist to the piece, it becomes a cinch!

## **Give your pieces a nice warm soak**

Soaking glassware in warm water after sandblasting makes the resist easier to remove and the clean-up process quicker. You can simply peel SR3000 off the etched item as you know and it leaves no residue but when you are doing volume work is ideal to have warm water sink or tub with a tiny bit of dishwashing liquid to soak your items in before removing the resist. Do this while you are etching the next batch of the job and your work will flow nicely.

## **No Bubbles on your Champagne Flutes**

For an almost bubble free application, onto to any product, after lining up the resist, lift up halfway, then firmly run the burnishing tool along that half, then repeat with the other half. This keeps the overall area from trapping air and makes for faster, bubble free applications.